

REMARKS

By means of the above-referenced amendment to Claim 1, Applicants have stressed even more clearly the hollow construction of the waveguide which forms a portion of the claimed invention. That is, the hollow waveguide is now described as “providing a space continuous with said tip, and a mirror disposed in said space”. In the last Office Action the disclosure of the cited Mitsuoka patent was relied upon as anticipating the invention set forth in Claim 1, wherein the waveguide 13 in Mitsuoka was said to correspond to the hollow waveguide set forth in Claim 1. Again, however, Applicants assert that there is no description in Mitsuoka that the waveguide is hollow, or that the slanted portions of the waveguide in Fig. 7 constitute mirrors. In fact, the only reference to a mirror in conjunction with Fig. 7 is apparently set forth at Column 10, lines 5-9 which describe the planar microlens 5 as possibly being provided with a parabolic mirror 11 and light transmission member 12, as depicted in Fig. 6. That embodiment, however, does not state that the waveguide in Fig. 7 is hollow, nor does it suggest the presence of a mirror disposed within the space of that hollow waveguide. A hollow waveguide as required in Claim 1 provides an advantage in that there is a reduced absorption of light, resulting in reduced transmission losses.

For these various reasons it is believed that Claim 1 as now presented should be deemed to be patentable over the cited reference. Accordingly, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited with respect to this application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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